

exclusive

MIGHTY Aphrodite!

A new chin, nose, lips and breasts – *Big Brother 4*'s Aphrodite Vuitton reveals how she beat her insecurities

Outspoken, loud and oozing self-confidence – that's what the thousands of viewers of *Big Brother* thought of 2004 contestant Aphrodite Vuitton. How wrong they were.

They say over-confidence acts as a mask of insecurity and for the pretty reality star that couldn't be truer. The 27-year-old belly dancer from Seven Hills, NSW, says she despised the sight of herself on TV.

'I loved being on TV, and had so much fun doing *Big Brother*, but I can't bear watching the tapes of me on screen,' she tells *New Idea*. 'Everyone thought I was so loud and confident, but that's so not me. I completely hated the way I looked.'

'I've always had a complex about my nose – it's huge! I used to get teased when I was young – I've even been called Concorde in the past. That hurt.'

Aphrodite says she even hated people seeing her side-on when she was in traffic. 'It made me feel so self-conscious and I covered my profile with my hair so no one could see my face,' she reveals.

Aphrodite has another gripe about her body – her small chest.

'I've been flat-chested all my life and seeing myself on TV made me feel worse. I got depressed about my appearance. I always felt I couldn't wear sexy low-cut tops and slinky dresses without feeling like a boy in them.'

'I've been a small B-cup size for most of my grown-up life – I've lost count of the nasty names the boys at school used to call me. I know these things shouldn't bother you but it really did.'

'I wasn't happy with the way I looked. I'd stand in front of the mirror and hate what I saw. I got called the "Wicked Witch of the West" as I had a pointy chin. I didn't smile in pictures as I felt it accentuated my chin even more.'

Aphrodite said her looks affected her social life and her love-life.

'I was shy around guys because I had no confidence in myself,' she says.

So, like thousands of others, she took the plunge and went under the knife.

'I've always wanted cosmetic surgery but I have been too scared or too poor!'

Aphrodite's stunning new look was created by her 'professional lifesavers' – Dr Steven Liew from plasticsurgery clinic at St Vincent's Clinic, NSW, and facial cosmetic surgeon Dr Martyn Mendelsohn from the Stuart Clinic in Chatswood, NSW.

It took five hours of surgery, with both surgeons working together, to create the star's new look – a new chin, nose, breast implants and lips plumped with Perlane, a temporary filler.

'I woke up from the op and asked for a mirror!' she says. 'I couldn't believe how much smaller my nose was. And my breasts were so big at first from swelling that my chin kept knocking them!'

When the swelling went down, Aphrodite got to see the real 'new' her.

'I was very sore the first week. I couldn't even lift a glass of water but I was excited. In fact, every part of the process was exciting,' she says.

'I was so happy when the bandages came off!' she says. 'I was still swollen but I loved my new nose and chin, and I couldn't stop staring at my chest. I can't wait to go shopping for sexy lingerie.'

Aphrodite has a role in the soon-to-be released Aussie film *Meat Pie*, and says she wants to concentrate on a TV career.

'I can't wait to show off my new look! I know some people are against cosmetic surgery but I'm much happier with the way I look and it's given me a whole heap of confidence,' she says.

'There isn't one woman out there who hasn't thought: "If only I could change the shape of my nose..." or whatever.'

'I didn't expect cosmetic surgery to change my life or my personality – and I didn't want it to – I just wanted to be a bit happier with the parts of my body that I didn't like. What's so wrong with that?'

By Amanda Goff
Pictures: Ross Coffey

BEFORE Aphrodite hated her flat chest.



She felt like a boy in revealing clothes.



'I can't wait to show off my new look!'

AFTER



A braming Aphrodite is delighted with her makeover.

APHRODITE'S NEW BODY

Chin The chin reduction was carried out by making an incision, just in front of the teeth, on the inside the mouth. Excessive soft tissues were carefully sculpted to preserve the nerves and muscles that are used for movement. Cost: \$1850.

Nose The rhinoseptoplasty was performed through incisions inside the nose so that excess cartilage could be removed. This involved breaking the nose. The tip was modified by removing excess cartilage and reshaped by using permanent stitches. Cost: \$4500.

Lips Aphrodite had an injection of a small amount of Perlane mainly into the upper lip, and a little into the lower lip. This material is a temporary filler and lasts around six months. Cost: \$550.

Breasts Aphrodite went from a small B-cup to a D-cup with round, higher profile cohesive silicone implants to give the fullness requested. The implants were placed partially behind the chest muscle via a short incision beneath her breasts, which will become virtually undetectable in time. Cost: \$11,000.

● There are risks with surgery so be sure to discuss this with your surgeon. In rare cases, patients can have serious reactions to the anaesthesia or sedation. The most common post-surgical problems are infections and scarring, and each, when diagnosed and treated early, can be managed successfully.